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Painless Childbirth, Eutocia, and Nitrous Oxid-Oxygen Analgesia. By CARL HENRY DAVIS, M.D. Chicago: Forbes & Co., 1916. 1 vol. Pp. 134. $1.00.

Two or three years ago, the American public was informed—unfortunately by lay writers in popular magazines—of the use of scopolamine and morphine in obstetrics under the suggestive and illusionary title "Twilight Sleep" or *Dämmerschlaf*. A number of years previous, this method had been found wanting by reputable physicians, but nevertheless it was received and exploited as a *new* boon to motherhood, discovered at Freiburg, Germany!

As a contrast to such deprecatory agitation, it is pleasing to read the book by Dr. Carl Henry Davis, in which he discusses the "painless childbirth" propaganda from a scientific medical viewpoint, but in such language that a non-medical person can understand the subject and form a fairly accurate opinion. The book contains a brief history of the management of labor from primitive times up to the present, and explains the various methods that have been employed in the attempt to secure easy childbirth. Dr. Davis is a strong advocate—as is every well-informed humanitarian—of reducing pain during labor, provided there are no deleterious effects. The advantages and greater disadvantages of the so-called "twilight sleep" are clearly brought forth. The analgesic use of nitrous oxid and oxygen is enthusiastically advocated to produce *eutocia*, which Davis defines as "an easy natural delivery." Much clinical evidence is incorporated in the book, and the technique is also described. So much that is vague, popular, and faddish has been written on "painless childbirth" that those who are interested—laymen or physicians—will appreciate this well-written booklet.

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America and Her Problems. By PAUL H. B. d'ESTOURNELLES DE CONSTANT. New York: Macmillan, 1915. Pp. xxii+545.

This volume seeks to give a faithful presentment of the present of the United States, together with the author's vision of its future. It is based upon several visits to America, particularly an elaborate tour made in 1911, and upon a large and intimate acquaintance with men and women prominently identified with all phases of American life.